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LETTER TO THE EXAMINER

Application #	09/856,358
Confirmation #	6873
Filing Date	22 May 2001
First Inventor	KEZUKA et al.
Art Unit	1765
Examiner	Umez Eronini
Docket #	P07223US00/BAS



Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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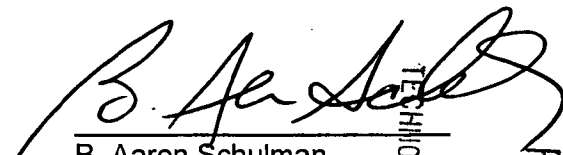
SIR:

Applicants submit herewith an Information Disclosure Statement which includes references cited in an Official Action dated April 18, 2003 in the equivalent Chinese application to the above-identified application. Please note that publications JP 52-56869 and JP 58-204540 were cited in the International Search Report during the International phase of the above application, and were previously submitted along with a copy of the International Search Report on August 21, 2001. For JP 60-64437 submitted herewith, a translation of the application into English is required.

The Examiner is thus requested to consider the enclosed references and make them of record in the present case.

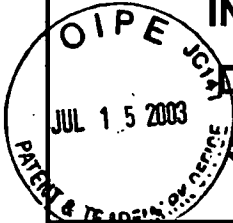
Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 15, 2003


B. Aaron Schulman
Registration No. 31,877

LARSON & TAYLOR PLC
1199 North Fairfax Street, Suite 900 - Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT	Application #	09/856,358
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SIR:

This IDS is submitted herewith pursuant to 37 CFR. §1.97-1.98 and includes the following:

- ☒ A listing of the references on PTO-1449.
- ☒ A copy of references which have come to applicant's attention.
- ☒ A copy of a corresponding foreign Search Report which explains the relevance of the references noted therein.
- ☐ A separate explanation of relevance.

Please note the following particulars concerning the filing of this IDS:

- ☒ This IDS is filed **within three months** of the filing date of a national application other than a CPA, or within three months of the date of entry into the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR. §1.491 in an international application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, or before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination, whichever event occurs last.

☐ This IDS is filed **after a first action**, but before a final action, allowance, or any other action which closes prosecution, **and**:

☐ is accompanied by a check in the amount of \$180.00 required by 37 CFR. §1.17(p).

Or

☐ I hereby state that each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

☐ I hereby state that no item of information in this IDS herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR. §1.56(c) more than 3 months prior to the filing of this IDS.

☐ An appropriate statement is attached.

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..... This IDS is filed **after a final action on allowance**, but on before payment of the issue fee, and:
..... is accompanied by a check in the amount of \$180.00 required by 37 CFR. §1.17(p).

and

..... I hereby state that each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

..... I hereby state that no item of information in this IDS herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR. §1.56(c) more than 3 months prior to the filing of this IDS.

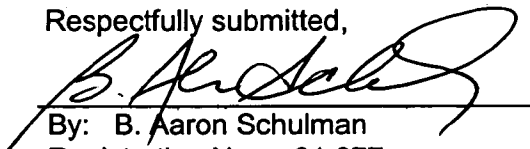
..... An appropriate statement is attached.

..... This IDS is being filed pursuant to 37 CFR. §1.97(i), **for placement in the file.**

☒ If no check is enclosed and a fee is due in connection with this communication or if the check enclosed is insufficient, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee or additional fee due with this communication to Deposit Account No. 12-0555.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 15 July 2003


By: B. Aaron Schulman
Registration No.: 31,877

LARSON & TAYLOR, PLC • 1199 North Fairfax St. • Suite 900 • Alexandria, VA 22314

